

11,941
58A98
Reserve

NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT PERCENT OF THE N. C. CORN ACREAGE WAS PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED FOR 1949?
2. CHICK PRODUCTION IS ABOVE OR BELOW THE AVERAGE?
3. DESCRIBE THE CONDITION OF BEE COLONIES AS OF JULY 1.
4. FARM WAGE RATES SHOWED A DROP OF 20, 35, OR 45 CENTS BETWEEN JULY 1, 1949 AND JULY 1, 1949?
5. NATION WIDE TURKEY OPERATIONS ARE ABOVE OR BELOW LAST YEAR?
6. FARMERS RAISED MORE CHICKENS IN 1948 OR 1949?
7. REVIEW N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX.
8. WHAT CHANGE OCCURRED IN THE PRICE OF FEED?
9. HOW MANY CHICKS WERE PLACED IN THE CHATHAM AND WILKES AREAS?
10. WHAT PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CORN ACREAGE WAS PLANTED IN HYBRID SEED IN 1938 IN N. C.

No. 42

RALEIGH, N. C.

AUGUST 5, 1949

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

HYBRID CORN ACREAGE INCREASES

In 1938 North Carolina farmers seeded only about 2,000 acres in hybrid corn seed, or .1 percent of the total corn acreage. This marked the beginning of the hybrid corn movement in North Carolina. The hybrid corn movement continued to progress rather slowly until 1946 when 121,000 acres, or 5.5 percent of the 2,193,000 acres of all corn was seeded in hybrids. Then in 1947 the use of hybrid corn seed increased to 14 percent of the total corn acreage.

It is now estimated that nearly one-third of the 2,181,000 acres planted in corn in 1949 was seeded with hybrids. This means that one acre out of three is seeded in hybrids as compared with the 1938 crop when only one acre out of a thousand was seeded in hybrids.

The average corn yield per acre in N. C. for 1938 was 19.0 bushels as compared with the expected 1949 average yield of 31.5 bushels. This shows an increase in yield of 13 to 14 bushels per acre in the eleven year period (1938-1949). This increase can no doubt be largely attributed to the use of hybrid seed; however, several other factors have played an important part such as heavier fertilization practices, more plants per acre, and a better understanding of the soil and cultivation requirements of this crop.

North Carolina is still considerably behind some other sections in the use of hybrid seed.

BEE COLONY NUMBERS UP 1 PERCENT

North Carolina's farm and non-farm bee keepers had 189,000 colonies of bees on hand July 1 compared with 187,000 colonies a year earlier. A total of 10,000 new spring colonies were added to apiaries which only offset the 10,000 colonies lost during the winter and spring months. The increase in total colonies occurred from late summer and winter additions principally through purchases.

Based on July 1 reports, the condition of colonies at 78 percent was sharply under that of 85 percent for a year ago. Condition of nectar plants was 72 percent compared with 76 percent for July 1, 1948. Cool, wet weather during the spring months combined with late frost in some sections caused poor growth and flowering of nectar plants as well as restricting the activity of bees which resulted in poor honey flow and condition of colonies.

A total of 959,000 colonies is estimated for the South Atlantic States. This is only 97 percent as large as for July 1, 1948. At 5,591,000 colonies the United States total was only 98 percent of that of a year ago.

CHICK PRODUCTION ABOVE AVERAGE

The number of chicks produced by North Carolina hatcheries during June was only 2 percent more than was produced during June last year, but 22 percent above the June 1943-47 average. June production totaled 3,621,000 chicks.

Chick production for flock replacement is generally complete. The principal use of chicks for the balance of the year will be for commercial broiler production; however, the demand for broiler chicks declined considerably in June due to a sharp drop in prices. Since July 1 the price of commercial broilers has improved somewhat giving a more favorable outlook for broiler production.

Production of chicks in North Carolina for the first 6 months of this year totaled 35,995,000 -- an increase of 33 percent above the 27,082,000 chicks produced during the same period last year.

Over the entire United States commercial hatcheries produced 111,670,000 chicks during June, 20 percent more than was produced during June last year, but 9 percent below the June 1943-47 average.

AUGUST IS CRITICAL MONTH FOR COTTON



FARMERS FIELD DAY AT EDGECOMBE TEST FARM

N. C. CORN ACREAGE PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED

YEAR	ALL CORN ACREAGE	PERCENTAGE PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED	INDICATED HYBRID CORN ACREAGE
	000		000
1938	2,477	0.1	2
1939	2,500	.2	5
1940	2,468	.5	12
1941	2,418	.8	19
1942	2,309	1.3	30
1943	2,335	1.6	37
1944	2,319	2.1	49
1945	2,229	3.2	71
1946	2,193	5.5	121
1947	2,204	14.0	309
1948	2,248	25.0	562
1949	2,181	32.0	698

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 3 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased from 240 as of June 15 to 237 as of July 15. This is the lowest index of prices received by farmers for any month during the present calendar year and compares with an index of 239 as of February 15, 1949.

The drop of 3 points in the "All Farm Products" index was caused by decreased prices in two commodity groups. The cotton and cottonseed commodity group dropped 2 points and the miscellaneous commodity group decreased 12 points. With the exception of peanuts, soybeans and wool all products in the miscellaneous group decreased in price during the month ending July 15.

The grains commodity index and the dairy products index showed no change during the month.

The meat animal index increased 5 points during the month. The price of hogs increased \$1.10 per hundred pounds, which accounted for all the increase in the meat animal index since all other commodities in this group remained the same or decreased in price.

The poultry index increased 15 points during the month. The increase in the poultry index was accounted for by a slight increase in chickens and by an increase of 4 cents per dozen in eggs.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers declined 1 point during the month ending July 15. This is the lowest point this index has reached during 1949, 1948 or 1947. Prior to this month the previous low index was recorded in February of this year. During June and July prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets declined relatively more than prices paid by U. S. farmers.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1949 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		JUNE 15 1949	JULY 15 1949	JULY 15 1949
		-DOLLARS-		
CORN.....	BU.	1.40	1.41	1.25
WHEAT.....	BU.	1.93	1.92	1.82
OATS.....	BU.	.75	.72	.583
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.10	1.14	.957
RYE.....	BU.	1.85	1.85	1.20
SOYBEAMS.....	BU.	1.95	1.95	2.27
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.25	4.00	3.68
PEANUTS.....	Lb.	.107	.108	.104
COTTON.....	Lb.	.317	.314	.300
COTTONSEED.....	TON	45.00	45.00	37.50
WOOL.....	Lb.	.47	.49	.473
HOGS.....	CWT.	19.00	20.10	19.30
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	18.00	18.00	20.00
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	23.10	22.60	22.40
SHEEP.....	CWT.	8.40	8.20	9.33
LAMBS.....	CWT.	24.20	23.50	22.80
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	138.00	132.00	178.00
CHICKENS.....	Lb.	.26	.263	.243
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.47	.51	.453
MILK, WHOLESALE.....	CWT.	4.35	4.40	3.72
RETAIL.....	QT.	.197	.199	.182
BUTTER.....	Lb.	.54	.53	.562
BUTTERFAT.....	Lb.	.53	.53	.589
HAY: ALL LOOSE.....	TON	29.50	-	-
ALL BALED.....	TON	31.00	31.80	20.40
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.35	1.25	1.55
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.55	2.45	2.83
APPLES, COMMERCIAL..	BU.	3.00	2.10	2.32
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT.	10.30	10.30	8.64
KOREAN.....	CWT.	10.10	8.00	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	15.90	12.10	-
COM. & TENN. 76....	CWT.	18.00	18.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	28.80	20.00	-

Acreage for harvest this year (for 52 principal crops) about 353 million...largest total since '32. Tops war-time peak in '44 by 700,000 acres...exceeds last year's total by nearly 2½ million acres.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

(N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	JUNE 15 1949	JULY 15 1949	15 JULY 1948	15 JULY 1947	15 JULY 15 1946
N. C. INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS....	240	237	264	267	242
COTTON & COTTONSEED..	243	241	271	286	254
GRAINS.....	166	166	211	209	209
MEAT ANIMALS.....	351	356	404	327	289
POULTRY.....	237	252	262	256	245
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	217	217	234	214	209
MISCELLANEOUS.....	234	222	236	235	217
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID*...	98	97	106	116	122
U. S. INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED.....	252	249	301	276	244
PRICES PAID					
INTEREST & TAXES....	245	244	251	230	198
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID....	103	102	120	120	123

* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 3 POINTS PARITY INDEX DOWN 1 POINT

The Parity Index (index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes) declined 1 point during the month ended July 15 to 244 percent of its 1910-14 base. The index is now 7 points below the record high level prevailing a year ago.

The drop in the Parity Index was largely the result of lower building costs both for home construction and for production purposes, which offset slightly higher prices for some feeds. Food prices also were down. Final estimates of 1949 tax payments per acre effected a 3 point upward revision in that component of the Parity Index to 275 percent of its 1910-14 average.

Falling prices during the month for cattle, wheat, potatoes, and apples were largely responsible for pulling the Index of Prices Received by Farmers down 3 points (1 percent) to 249 percent of its August 1909-July 1914 base. These lower prices more than offset slightly higher prices for feed grains and hay, truck crops, dairy products, hogs, eggs, and turkeys. Divergent changes occurred in many commodity groups. For example, hogs increased while all other meat animals showed decreases, corn was up and oats were down, and milk increased while butterfat declined.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	JUNE 15 1949	JULY 15 1949	JUNE 15 1949	JULY 15 1949	JUNE 15 1949	JULY 15 1949
-DOLLARS-						
COTTON, LB.....	.301	.300	.303	.302	99	99
WHEAT, BU.....	1.86	1.82	2.17	2.16	86	84
CORN, BU.....	1.21	1.25	1.57	1.57	77	80
OATS, BU.....	.601	.583	.978	.974	61	60
BARLEY, BU.....	.928	.957	1.52	1.51	61	63
RYE, BU.....	1.13	1.20	1.76	1.76	-	68
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	20.90	20.00	13.30	13.20	157	152
HOGS, CWT.....	18.80	19.30	17.80	17.70	106	109
LAMBS, CWT.....	24.40	22.80	14.40	14.30	169	159
CHICKENS, CWT....	.261	.243	.279	.278	94	87
EGGS, DOZ.....	.441	.453	.527	.525	95*	90*
MILK, WHLSE, CWT..	3.59**	3.72	3.92	3.90	103*	103*

* Ratio of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

** Preliminary

LAMB CROP SMALLER

North Carolina's 1949 lamb crop (lambs living June 1, or sold before June 1) totaled 28,000 head or about 3.5 percent less than the 29,000 lambs saved in 1948. This estimate is based on reports from producers as of June 1. The lamb crop this year is the smallest of record, beginning with 1926. However, the crop in 1947 was only equal to that of this year. Otherwise the number of lambs saved each year since 1926 has been higher with a record crop of 71,000 saved in 1929. The 10-year (1938-47) average crop is 36,000.

The number of lambs saved per 100 ewes (one year old or older) was 112 for the State this year. This compares with 104 in 1948 and a 10-year average of 95.

There were 25,000 breeding ewes on farms in North Carolina on January 1, 1949. A year earlier there were 28,000, comparing with 38,000 for the 10-year average.

The United States lamb crop totaled 18,906,000 head, about a million head or 6 percent smaller than 1948. The 1949 lamb crop is the smallest on record, starting with 1924, and is 10 million head or 35 percent smaller than the 1938-47 average. Texas, the leading sheep producing State, has a slightly larger lamb crop than last year's exceedingly small crop, but elsewhere the reduction is general over the United States.

The percentage lamb crop (number of lambs saved per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1) this year was 87.3. This is about 2 percentage points higher than last year and slightly exceeds the 10-year average of 86.7 percent.

FEED PRICES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most high protein and grain by-products feeds remained about the same during the month ending July 15. Some feeds increased in price while others remained the same or decreased.

Bran decreased 10 cents per hundred pounds, middlings decreased 5 cents per hundred pounds and scratch grain decreased 5 cents per hundred. Corn meal, cottonseed meal and meat scrap increased in price (see table below). Mixed dairy feed prices remained the same as June.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1949 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	JUNE 15 1949	JULY 15 1949	JUNE 15 1949	JULY 15 1949
	- DOLLARS -			
BRAN.....	3.55	3.45	3.13	3.08
MIDDINGS.....	3.75	3.70	3.32	3.30
CORN MEAL.....	4.10	4.20	3.33	3.36
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	3.30	3.45	3.73	3.87
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.46
18% PROTEIN.....	3.75	3.75	3.61	3.63
20% PROTEIN.....	3.80	3.80	3.66	3.70
LAYING MASH.....	4.80	4.80	4.47	4.51
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.30	4.25	3.94	3.91
MEAT SCRAP.....	7.10	7.70	6.81	7.54

U. S. STOCKS OF SOYBEANS

In the positions for which information is now available, about 22 million bushels of soybeans were in storage on July 1, 1949. This total does not include stocks at processing plants,

Included in this partial total now available are commercial stocks of 3.3 million bushels of soybeans at terminals, reported by the Production and Marketing Administration. As of July 1 farm stocks are estimated at 9.4 million bushels and stocks at interior mills and elevators at 9.1 million bushels. The latter are the largest for July 1 in the 8 years of record, while farm stocks were exceeded only in 1943 and 1944. Processors' stocks were about 36.3 million bushels on April 1, 1949. In the past 6 years the decline in processors' stocks from April 1 to July 1 has averaged about 12 million bushels. The decline was only 8.2 million bushels in 1945, but has ranged from nearly 11.5 million bushels in 1943 and 1944 to nearly 14 million bushels in 1946, 1947 and 1948.

JULY 1 GRAIN STOCKS

In North Carolina, stocks of corn in all positions totaled 16,232,000 bushels on July 1, 1949, or about 8 percent less than a year earlier. Of this year's stocks, 15,996,000 bushels were held on farms while 236,000 bushels were in off-farm positions. A year earlier, 17,387,000 bushels were held on farms and 337,000 bushels were in off-farm positions. July 1, oats stocks in all positions at 698,000 bushels amounted to about half the 1,391,000 bushels held on the same date in 1948. On-farm stocks July 1, this year, were 677,000 bushels comparing with 1,366,000 a year earlier. Off-farm stocks at 21,000 bushels on July 1, 1949, showed little change from the 25,000 held a year earlier. Barley stocks in all positions also reflected a sharp decrease, dropping from 113,000 bushels on July 1, 1948 to 74,000 bushels on the same date this year. On-farm stocks in the meantime dropped from 108,000 to 72,000 bushels, while off-farm stocks dropped from 5,000 to 2,000 bushels.

Wheat stocks in all positions in the State were 428,000 bushels on July 1, 1949, comparing with 875,000 bushels a year earlier. Holdings on farms amounted to 302,000 bushels on July 1, this year, while off-farm stocks amounted to 126,000. A year earlier, on-farm stocks totaled 696,000 bushels and off-farm stocks totaled 179,000 bushels.

Farm holdings of rye on July 1, 1949, totaled 11,000 bushels. This compares with 17,000 bushels held on the same date in 1948. In order to avoid disclosing individual operations, off-farm stocks of this commodity cannot be published.

The 1,277 million bushels of corn in all positions in the United States on July 1, was nearly 3 times as large as the very small stocks on the same date in 1948 and half again as large as the previous peak of 831 million bushels on July 1, 1943. Oats stocks of 295 million bushels are the largest carryover of record, despite heavy disappearance since harvest. Barley stocks of 100 million bushels are nearly double the 1948 carryover of 52 million bushels.

Carryover stocks of wheat in all positions in the United States on July 1, 1949, were about 293 million bushels and of rye about 8.3 million bushels. Current wheat stocks are about 50 percent larger than on July 1, 1948, and about 3 times as large as the very small carryover stocks in 1946 and 1947. They are, however, less than half the peak carryovers of 631 million bushels in 1942 and 619 million in 1943. Current rye stocks of 8.3 million bushels compare with 3.4 million a year earlier, 2.3 million in 1947 and 2.4 million in 1946, but are much smaller than carryovers of 12 million bushels in 1945, nearly 31 million in 1944 and 47 million in 1943.

FARM REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300
(PMGC)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FORM BAE-A-1-49-9,000
PERMIT No. 1001

Released By The
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
W. P. Callander, Assistant Chief
and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Issued Semi-Monthly Through The
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

INFORMATION DIRECT FROM FARMERS
AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

LIBRARY,
U. S. DEPT. AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUGUST 1949

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

CHICKENS RAISED INCREASES

Young chickens raised on North Carolina farms in 1949 are estimated at 20,406,000, 8 percent more than were raised in 1948, but 7 percent less than the 1938-47 average. This is the first increase in the number of chickens raised since 1944 when a record high of 25,578,000 was reached. This estimate is based on reports obtained by Rural Mail Carriers from farmers as of June 1.

N. C. producers raised more chickens during 1949 than any of the other South Atlantic States. Georgia ranks second in this area with a production of 13,951,000. North Carolina is exceeded by 14 other States in the number of chickens raised on farms.

The number of young chickens raised on farms in 1949 over the entire United States is estimated at 748,671,000 -- 17 percent more than were raised in 1948 and 4 percent less than the 1938-47 average. The number of chickens raised are above those of last year in all States except three. The largest increases are in the North Atlantic and East Central States with average increases of 23 and 22 percent, respectively. The smallest increases are in the South Atlantic States with an average increase of 6 percent for that area.

U. S. SOYBEAN ACREAGE DOWN

Soybean acreage is smaller than usual. The 11.1 million acres planted (alone and for all purposes) is the lowest since the prewar crop of '41. Acreage is down 6 percent from last year and is about 5 percent less than the '38-41 average.

Acreage for harvest as beans, based on grower's July 1 intentions, probably will be about 9.7 million acres, compared with 10.3 million harvested last year.

FARM WAGE RATES DROP SLIGHTLY

According to reporters North Carolina farmers on July 1 were paying \$3.40 per day for farm labor where housing was furnished. This was a drop of 35 cents from the rate paid a year earlier. An average hourly wage rate of 46 cents was being paid for labor without board or room compared with 53 cents a year ago. However, the daily wage rate of \$4.10 for labor without board or room was up 10 cents from that for the same date in 1948.

Farm employment of hired workers was below a year ago only in the South Atlantic States. However, the number of unpaid family workers was above last year in only one region, the West South Central. The trend in total farm employment continues down as the increase in hired workers since last June failed to offset the decrease in unpaid family workers.

DAILY AND HOURLY FARM WAGE RATES N. C. AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES COMPARED

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	JULY 1 1948	JULY 1 1949
NORTH CAROLINA		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE.....	3.75	3.40
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..	4.00	4.10
PER HOUR: WITH HOUSE.....	.	.
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..	.53	.46
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE.....	3.35	3.25
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..	3.80	3.90
PER HOUR: WITH HOUSE.....	.	.
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..	.53	.47

EMPLOYMENT UP NEARLY A MILLION

Total U. S. civilian employment in June (Census) was 59.6 million, up nine-tenths of a million from the previous month when the total was 58.7 million.

BROILER PLACEMENTS UP SETTINGS LOWER

Placements of chicks with commercial broiler producers in the Chatham and Wilkes areas during June was only 1 percent above placements in the two areas during May according to reports from hatcherymen and dealers serving these areas. Total number of placements for June was reported at 1,540,000 chicks.

Eggs set and chicks hatched in the two areas during June showed rather sharp declines over operations for the previous month. Hatcherymen reported 1,877,000 eggs set and 1,558,000 chicks hatched in the Chatham and Wilkes areas. Eggs set dropped 20 percent under May settings, while chick production showed a decline of 22 percent under hatchings for May.

NATION WIDE TURKEY OPERATIONS UP 45 PERCENT

The demand for poults during June was good. U. S. Hatcheries reporting turkey operations showed 45 percent more poults hatched than in June 1948. Turkey hatcheries reporting for the 5 months period, February, March, April, May and June, have hatched 60 percent more poults than during these months last year. The hatching season for poults is completed except for a few late hatches during July. The percentage increase in poult hatchings this year indicates a large turkey production, but not necessarily the relative change for the 1949 turkey crop. The actual size of the turkey crop will depend partly on death losses of poults and young turkeys. It will be recalled that the percentage death loss for the 1948 turkey crop was unusually small, being by far the smallest on record.